(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Barring Convicted persons from Contesting, Elections

*280. SHRI C.R THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI V.R DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to debar politicians-convicted either by a lower Court or High Court or Supreme Court-from contesting elections to the Assembly and Parliamentary seats;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and whether his Ministry will consider this proposal to debar convicted persons from contesting elections, at the earliest; and

(c) whether Government would consider amending the rules to make it difficult for the convicted persons from contesting elections in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Politicians, as such, have not been given any special treatment *vis-a-vis* common man so far as the issue of disqualification on conviction for offences is concerned. The Representation of the People Act, 1951, section 8 thereof, already contains provisions for disqualifying a person on conviction for certain offences. Govemment is, however, committed to further strengthen the provisions, as part of its overall agenda on reform of electoral laws, so as to check entry of corrupt and criminal elements in the electoral politics. Amendment in electoral laws is, however, a serious and contentious subject and, therefore, considerable time and attention are being given to it. It is therefore, not possible to give any time frame in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Complaint against the Employees of ATC

†1979. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have received a large number of complaints against the employees of Air Traffic Control Department of Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints were received against the Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) during their agitation in April, 1997, November, 1997 and February, 1999.ATC Guild resorted to flash strike in April 1997, which resulted in total stoppage of all activities in civil aviation sector. ATCs Guild again resorted to go slow tactics in November, 1997 disturbing schedule of flights. During 1998 the shifting of ATC operations to new ATC complex at Delhi commissioned with most modern facilities at a cost of Rs. 210 crores approx, was unduly Delayed for 8 months due to their irrational demands. ATCs Guild again resorted to "work to Rule" agitation in February, 1999, resulting in dealyed flights all over the country for a period of 18 days.

(c) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) filed an application in the Delhi High Court and the Hon'ble High Court restrained the ATCs from resorted to agitational approach and go slow activities. Disciplinary action was initiated against the ATC and six ATCs were dismissed from the service of AAI.

Measures to Prevent Accidents in Airports

†1980. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the persons held responsible for the death of a girl child in moving escalator at Indira Gandhi International Airport alongwith the number of arrest made for carelessness and want of maintenance due to which accident has taken place; and

(b) the arrangements made for the prevention of such accidents in the future alongwith the details of the incident?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.